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The Annual Snow Battle

Every winter there is one activity to which everyone looks forward. That is the annual snow battle, fought on Washington's birthday. This year we had many heavy snowstorms but before Washington's Birthday there was a week of warm weather and a lot of the snow melted. However we figured that we would have the snow fight so we chose armies.

Vaughn A. Best was elected General of the Settlers and Samuel B. Whiting the leader of the Indians, or King Philip. Soon the leaders had their armies picked and officers appointed.

The forts were built during the next few days and the snow packed heavily so that on the day of the battle they were pretty solid. A day or so before the holiday a new snowfall gave us just what was needed for a good fight.

The battle began at ten o'clock. The morning was clear, crisp and cold. The Indians attacked the Settlers' fort in an effort to capture small sacks which were in the fort. The battle got started quickly and the Settlers held their own although at times it seemed as though the fort would be entered. At the close of the period the Indians had captured no points and during a time out the sacks were placed in the opposite fort and everyone waited for the start of the second period.

Vaughn Best led his army on a determined effort to break down the Indians' fort. His men fought hard and kept the Indians busy repulsing attack after attack. After awhile it became clear that neither army was going to have much success in breaking into the enemies' fort. And so the period ended with no points for either side, although there had been both an attack and counter attack.

Now came the real exciting part of the fight. The sacks were placed midway between the two forts and the final period began with both sides rushing to capture the sacks and hold possession until time was up. All over the field there were skirmishes and it took quite awhile to get the sacks safely within the forts. When this was accomplished the Indians realized that they needed more points to win and made several attacks on the Settlers' fort but without success. Many tried to climb the fort and some almost did but the Settlers held out until the whistle sounded the end of the battle. The score was fairly close with the Settlers beating the Indians in a real good battle. Each side cheered the other after the score was given.

It was pretty near dinner time when the fight was over and the boys were glad to get in out of the cold and get ready for a hot dinner. In the afternoon both armies had a party with the winners being the guests of honor and the losers doing work of serving refreshments and whatever jobs were needed.

In the evening we had a good movie called "The Leather Pushers" and at the show everybody was presented a pound box of chocolates, the gift of the Alumni Association. Everyone thanks the Alumni for their kindness.

The day was a happy one for all the boys and we want to thank everyone who helped give us such a good time.

Jon F. Hines

Playing Snare Drum

Here at our school everybody wants to play in the Band. I was lucky because after I had been here only a few months I become a snare drummer. There is one other snare drummer, Paul Horton, and he has been playing for a long time and is a very good drummer. There are thirty-two boys in the band now and we have a rehearsal each Friday night with our leader Mr. Warren. Each Monday night we play at Assembly.

James P. Hebert

My Friend

Lewis A. Hester comes from Florida, but he has travelled over a lot of the United States because his father had work which took him to many places. He talks so much about Florida that we call him that for a nickname although to some he is known as "Alligator". The only time he ever saw snow was when he was a baby. Up north he has had a good time playing in the snow but he doesn't stay out long because it is too cold for him. He talks with a southern accent and when he calls Richard Allen it sounds like Ahhrrrrrlen!

Dormitory A

Dormitory A is filled up with nice boys. The monitors are the best friends we

have. All you have to do is to do as they ask and you get along well. If you help the monitors they will help you. There are three instructors in Dormitory A who look after the boys. There are two other dormitories at F. T. S. just like Dormitory A. Then there is another dormitory where the oldest boys live.

William F. James

Playing the Clarinet

My brother and I came to this School in December. After we were here a little while he became interested in learning how to play the clarinet. After a few lessons he could do very well so I thought I'd take lessons. I got my instrument just a few days ago and have had three lessons and can play some notes all ready.

Ralph F. Hopkins

Entertainments

The entertainments we have at F.T.S. are lots of fun. Every Saturday we have a movie show and we have all kinds of pictures from adventure, mystery to comedy kinds. We like the March of Time especially. Then other entertaiments are held in the assembly hall by people from the city. We have quite a few parties in our dormitory too. Although I have not been here long I can see that all the boys like the entertainments we have here.

Joseph J. Magazu

The Sportsmen's Show

On February 4, 1948, through the kindness of John Goodhue, '21, one of the Trustees of our school, a group of the boys were so fortunate as to attend the 1948 Sportsmen's Show. As most know, huge crowds see this show and it is held in Mechanics Building in Boston.

Those who are in business of manufacturing or selling things which are used in sport or outdoor pleasure arrange to have their products on display. There are so many different articles, equipment and other sporting materials at the show that I couldn't begin to name them all. There were many kinds of beautiful boats, trailers, airplanes and rustic cottages on exhibition and these all attracted attention, as did countless other displays. We saw many wonderful exhibits.

The many people who had a part in the show came from many states and from such far away cities as Hollywood, California. We were lucky to see Ted Williams trying out a new fishing outfit. He was fishing in a pond exhibited by the State of Maine.

We got to Mechanics Building in time to get good seats for the show. The first on the program was an exhibition of fly casting. Then three professional roller skaters gave a marvelous demonstration on their skates, doing many kinds of tricks and showing different methods of skating. Then there followed the log rolling contest which was very good. The canoe tilting contest came next and this gave us many thrills. All of us enjoyed the show and were certainly lucky to have seats for there were many, many people who had to stand.

After seeing the demonstrations we visited many of the booths and everywhere there were fine attractions for us to see. If anyone wants to buy anything for pleasure, from an outboard motor to an airplane, he ought to go to the Sportsmen's Show where he can see the latest models and learn all about them.

Time passed quickly and we soon noticed that we would have to be leaving for good old F. T. S. so as to be on time for supper. We reached the boat landing on time, arrived at the School where a good supper was awaiting us. We told the other boys about our pleasant trip and we

certainly were filled with satisfaction for the good time we had.

David W. Simmons, Jr.

The Serving Room

The serving room is a good place to work. I have been there for just a few days, as I was lately changed from dormitory work. This week I am early washer, that is, I eat before the other boys and take care of the serving dishes as they come from the tables. It takes about an hour to do my job and then I help the other boys finish their work.

Richard S. Larsen

Doing Special Work

During the last change of department work my duty was changed from dining room to special. I was glad for the change and was anxious to see what my job was going to be like. Next morning I found out that being a special boy meant that I would have a variety of jobs, from cleaning inside rooms to shovelling snow. I think I'll like this work.

Eldon J. Lundin

Preparing a Class Program

Preparing the class program for the weekly assembly is a very interesting, and sometimes difficult, job. If those in the program are to be in costume then the problem of getting the costumes ready comes up. If the program is original, and most of them are, then the parts have to be written for each boy. Figuring how to set the stage is sometimes a hard job too. I am in charge of our class program for this month and although it has been a lot of work it has also been fun too.

Richard A. Gavin

Examinations for the Winter Term will be held on March 9-12. The Spring vacation will be the week of March 29.

Chompson's Island Beacon

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THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Burleigh M. Pratt - - - · Editor

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Contributions may be mailed to ALFRED C. MALM, Treasurer One Federal Street, Boston 6 Old Colony Trust Company Custodian of Investment Funds Our varsity basketball team has recently been in the tournament of this area, an interesting and worthwhile experience. There are so many values to such an event that a book could be written on the extent of the far-reaching effects. One might say it is just another game, fun for the moment, soon forgotten and unimportant. That is far from the myriad of facts pertaining to this real life situation and experience.

This was a history making series of events in that this is the first time the small schools of this eastern Massachusetts area have had a basketball tournament. About forty of the smaller schools, from our little school with an enrollment of 13 boys in the three upper years of high school to Needham high school with nearly two hundred. The teams were grouped according to size of school and our school was one of eight in Class D.

We drew Groveland High School for our initial contestant. Groveland was picked by a famous Boston sports writer to win the cup, which, incidentally, was given by the Boston Rotary Club. Our game was played to a tie score, a referee reverted the game to a previous point, Groveland scored, the game ended and we protested. Our protest was upheld by the tournament director and another game was played which resulted in a victory by our opponent. Their next game, with Story High School of Manchester, eliminated Groveland. Such an event gives our boys the opportunity of good healthy physical development, practice in team play, experience in quick accurate thinking, friendly contact with lads from other communities, respect for equally good or better players, and a life time of memories because of this never to be forgotten tournament play. To learn to give and take, and to play the game fairly, is vital to a life of success and happiness. If the world, or even our country, could be

taught to live and work and play in the same spirit as those lads played those two games we would not need to worry about wars, crime and man-made strife. We shall look forward to next year's tournament and many more to follow in future years.

Topics in Brief

The traditional snowball battle, King Philip's War, took place on February 23 and in true historical fashion the Indians attacked the Settlers' fort. For twenty minutes the battle raged and finally the Indians were repulsed without gaining a single iota of success. The Settlers then waged war on the Indians and likewise failed to progress toward the victory goal. A final battle in "No Man's Land" resulted in a victory for the Settlers. The victorious leader was Vaughn A. Best while Samuel B. Whiting as King Philip led the losing Indians in a real good battle.

Later in the day the boys had a party in the gymnasium with the victors being the guests of honor. The Indians acted as waiters serving refreshments of cocoa, doughnuts, apples and candy.

For many years it has been the happy custom of observing Mr. Meacham's birthday with an informal party. This begins in the gymnasium where a buffet supper is served and where Mr. Meacham cuts a birthday cake into helpings for all. Then at 7:30 in the Assembly Hall there is an "amateur show" staged by the boys. This year the entertainment seemed better than ever as many of the boys provided humorous sketches, songs and instrumental selections. The boys enjoy stage play and the annual show on March 2 is great fun.

Our intra-mural basketball series has been carried on with vigor during the past month. Nearly all of the boys are on one of the eight teams in the two leagues and the interest is very high. We are nearing the end of the season and the thirty-six games played have all been hard-fought with the final outcome of some of the games not being decided until the final minute or two of play. Although one of the newer games, it is certainly true that basketball is one of the more popular, and growing more so year by year.

A new set of folding chairs has been purchased for use in our band hall and the appearance of the room has thus been improved. The members of the band are looking forward to the various trips and concerts this Spring and a tentative program for the Faneuil Hall concert has been arranged. Captain Frank L. Warren comes regularly each week to direct the rehearsals of our group.

We expect that our Band will participate in the State School Music Festival at Lawrence and the New England Festival at Hampton Beach, N. H., both events taking place during May.

The month of February gave us much snow, ice and cold weather, making it ideal for those boys who enjoy outdoor winter sports. The boys participated in all forms of snow fun.

The class programs at our weekly assemblies have been varied and interesting. The division A of the eighth grade presented a mock trial and the following week the division B of the same grade gave a selection of quizzes, stories and musical numbers. The seventh graders used a phonograph to produce a humorous show while the sixth graders gave interesting points of Washington's career illustrated on the screen with colored photographs.

The varsity basketball squad has been busy on its schedule of at least one game weekly and the editorial column on page 4 tells of our entry in the small schools tournament, a really important event. The last game played during February was with Cohasset High School which our boys won. In a game played between second teams our boys lost. A "cub" team of boys 14 and under has represented our school against teams of a similar age level and these games have been very good in all respects.

A highlight of our moving picture programs has been showing several forum editions of the March of Time. Particularly interesting to our boys were two, "The American Farmer" and "Music in America." The authentic subject matter of these films plus the excellent method of presentation make them of real educational value.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, February 1858 As kept by the Superintendent

- 3. Two of Mrs. Morse's sisters appeared at the Point wishing to pay us a visit previous to their departure for California. I succeeded in getting over but found it too rough to bring them home. At night it calmed so that Mrs. Morse ventured to cross and see them at Gorham's Hotel at the Point.
- 10. This is my 34th birthday. The boys had roast pig for dinner, and a half holiday.
- 25. Considerable ice formed last night and this morning a field of several acres in extent floated down the south side of our island, bearing upon its glassy surface a very large white-headed eagle, so large that he was at first taken for a person.

Movies

Movies are a lot of fun and every Saturday we have a good show. We go to the assembly hall at 7:30 and the show begins. The first picture is usually a cartoon or comedy. Sometimes there are two or three short pictures. We always have one feature picture. One that I liked very much was "Drums Along the Mohawk." I'm sure all the boys look forward to Saturday night and the movie show.

James P. Hebert



Robert W. Hatch, Ernest L. Parsons and Harold D. Lowery, Jr. with Farmall P 12 tractor.

Dining Room Work

Although some of the boys may not like working in the dining room I can't say that I mind it. At the last change of work I was given this job and it surely is very important. I begin really working after breakfast for then the tables must be cleared and the dishes taken to the serving room to be washed. The silver is gathered first and then the plates, bowls and other dishes. Then the tables are "crumbed"

that is cleaned with a cloth. After this, each table is thoroughly washed. The tables are made of maple and look very nice when they are cleaned.

I have six tables to take care of and the last thing I do is to sweep the floor. Then it is time to put on the clean dishes for dinner. My job is then finished and I am dismissed.

Roger A. Hopkins

Harvesting Wheat

I am in the sixth grade and we are studying about Italy. There the average man with a small farm harvests his wheat crop mostly by hand. Italian women go in the fields and do their share of the day's work, cutting the wheat and binding it in sheaves. Even when there is machinery to use, the new methods are mixed with the old and oxen drawn binders work side by side with the farmer using older hand methods.

Lawrence G. Hatfield

A Birthday Party

On March 2, which is Mr. Meacham's birthday, an informal birthday party was held. All the boys and instructors met in the gymnasium for supper. The menu included tasty sandwiches, fruit punch, ice cream and cake. Mrs. Meacham helped Mr. Meacham cut and serve an enormous, lovely, birthday cake. Each of us had a generous piece.

Shortly after the party we went to the assembly hall where an entertainment by the boys was given. There were many acts in the show, and all good. About half the boys had some part in the show. There was a one act comedy, a boxing match, vocal solos, original sketches and instrumental duets.

Towards the end of the program Mr. Meacham was presented with a gift of several books, a gift from the instructors. He

told how pleased he was with the party, and with the many congratulatory greetings he received.

We all certainly had a good time at the birthday party. May there be many more!

Burleigh M. Pratt

Additional Alumni Notes

CHARLES W. HAFLEY and FREDERICK R. HAFLEY, both of the Class of 1888, operate the Three Pine Poultry Farm at New Brunswick, N. J. They are always eager to hear news of the School and are always ready with encouragement and aid for the furthering of the work of the Alumni Association. In a recent letter they state that they well recall the first lesson Harold E. Brenton had on the cornet. In those few minutes a great career was born.

As regards Charles W. Hafley we appreciate the following clipping from a New Jersey paper sent us by Mrs. Miriam B. Lawrence, a former member of our staff.

"A testimonial dinner was tendered Captain Charles W. Hafley, retired treasurer of the Middlebush Volunteer Fire Company, on January 31. The dinner was a complete surprise to Captain Hafley who served as treasurer for 20 years. This affair was attended by 75 firemen and friends.

"Sampson Smith acted as toastmaster. Fred Hafley, brother of the guest of honor, spoke and Clark Anderson presented the guest with a scroll on which was inscribed honorary life membership privileges in the fire company.

"Ralph Ahrens presented him with a mercurial barometer, a gift from friends in the community. The Ladies' Auxiliary of the fire department served."

We add our congratulations to Cap tain Hafley for his outstanding service.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

SAMUEL L. WHITEHEAD, '23, President Wakefield, Mass.

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Deep sympathy is expressed to the two Ellis brothers—Merton P. and Howard B. Ellis—in the sad bereavement that has overtaken them. Within one day less than two weeks each brother lost his wife. On Feb. 14 Mrs. Eleanor L. (Lyons) Ellis, wife of Merton, passed away at her home, 18 Elm street, Milton. Funeral services were held on the following Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the John B. Cole Funeral Home on Columbia Road, Dorchester. Rev. L. W. West, pastor of the South Baptist Church, officiated, and interment was at Forest Hills Cemetery.

On Feb. 27, Mrs. Elida (Thoresen) Ellis, wife of Howard, passed away in Milton. Funeral services were held on the following Monday, March 1, at the Second Congregational Church in Dorchester. The Rev. Andrew Richards, pastor of the church officiated, and interment was at Cedar Hills Cemetery. At each of the services there was a large attendance of friends, and in both instances the floral tributes were many and beautiful. Besides her husband, Mrs. Elida Ellis is survived by two children, Boynton and Helen.

A. BELDEN GILBERT, '16, one of our most interested and active members on the west coast would be very happy to have any of our members or other friends of F. T. S. stop in and visit when in Los Angeles. He writes that such visitors would be most welcome and to come anytime,—the door is always open. Mr. Gilbert has had a varied and colorful career and is now executive secretary of the Peace Officers Civil Service Association of California. His address is 649 So. Olive Street, Los Angeles, Cal.

HAROLD F. BENT'35, and Mrs. Bent are the proud parents of a bouncing lapful born September 16, 1947. Jeannine Louise Bent, we are certain, has added unbounded joy to the Bent home in Gorham, Maine. Our heartiest congratulations! Mr. Bent, who we see often at Alumni gatherings, has purchased land and property at Gorham and operates his own business.

WILLIAM C. PARSONS '36, writes an interesting account of his present activities. He first requests that his good wishes be extended his friends at Thompson's Island and then tells of his pleasure of being at the football banquet held last December. He has two daughters, Diane, age 5 and Joyce, age 2. He is a tool and die maker and works for the Standard Tool and Die Company in Belmont where he is shop foreman. He hopes to eventually become a Methods Engineer or Tool Designer. He adds that he is looking forward to the annual concert by the band to be given in Faneuil Hall this spring.

CHARLES F. AVERILL, '37, proudly announces the arrival of Charles Francis Averill, Jr., on January 30. Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Averill. They live in Providence, R.I., at 138 Elton Street, and would be glad to hear from any classmates and friends of F. T. S.

ERNEST BURNS, '42, is employed by a Boston food concern. He worked for this firm previous to his wartime service with the U. S. Marine Corps and continues in the work which he enjoys. His home address is 120 Darrow St., Quincy, 69, Mass. He enjoys the BEACON and would like to hear from his schoolmates.